
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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Spratt Announces \$64 Million Contract for SOPAKCO

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that SOPAKCO, of Bennettsville, has won a \$64 million contract from the Department of Defense to make “Meals Ready to Eat” (MREs) for the military. The award comes on top of a \$143 million MRE contract the company won from the defense department in March.

“These contracts are welcome news,” said Spratt. “In 1993, the Pentagon decided to drop SOPAKCO as a supplier. I thought that was a bad decision and took SOPAKCO's case to the highest levels of the Pentagon. The Pentagon reassessed its needs, and SOPAKCO is now thriving, and an essential part of the Pentagon's production base.”

With the new award, SOPAKCO will produce between 945,000 and 1.4 million cases of MREs over the next two years.

SOPAKCO President Lonnie Thompson praised Spratt for his help, saying defense contracts mean good jobs for the area. “Not only do contracts like this keep our company strong, they often translate into a handful of new jobs. I know I speak for lots of people in Marlboro County when I say I'm grateful for all that John Spratt has done for SOPAKCO.”

Thompson said SOPAKCO plants in both Bennettsville and Mullins would benefit from the new contract.

“I am proud to represent SOPAKCO,” said Spratt. “The competition for these defense contracts is tight, and winning a bid is a tribute to the company and its employees.”

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